

MH 76 A13

February 23rd, 1949

Professor C. C. Price,
Notre Dame University,
South Bend, Indiana

Dear Doctor Price,

Thank you for the copy of your letter to my friend
Linus Pauling. Since all of us are working for peace in ways which
overlap widely, I hope you will not mind my speaking out.

I, too, am a sponsor of the proposed conference, and I
am proud to associate myself with many of the names on the list, includ-
ing Linus'. Perhaps my principal difference from your point of view is
that when this conference was proposed last August (before the current
Russian "peace offensive") and a list of names of proposed sponsors was
submitted, I did not shy away because I recognized on it some rather
dubious ones. I have enough confidence in my ideals, my integrity, and
my love for my country to feel that I can lose nothing by fighting for
these ideals, even side-by-side with communists when they are out for
something of which I approve. Another sponsor who feels the same way
is O. John Rogge, and if he had not had the courage to go to the
communistic Congress of Intellectuals in Warsaw, there would have been
no one there to deliver the ringing defense of Western culture that he
put on record.

A major mistake our State Department, for example, has made
is its patent lack of confidence in the American people. One example was
its cancellation of a shipload of delegates to the obviously communist-
dominated International Youth Congress at Prague in 1947. A thousand young
American representatives of democracy, with their healthy simplicity, freedom
of thought, baseball, basketball, and songs (all of which the Czechs adore)
might well have stemmed the tide of the tragic events that followed shortly
after. But the State Department did not trust our young people and the
opportunity was lost. Even the British Labor government sent as its
representatives 200 young Conservatives (sic!). I talked to one of them
and she had surrendered nothing of her political creed, had gained in
breadth of view, and came away with a promise of a weekly letter from a
young Czech communist..

By the same token I fear you do not trust Linus and me. I am as firm a believer in World Government as you are, only I believe that were we to scrap the UN, we would get even less agreement than we already have. I am actively working to try to help the UN to evolve into a world government, and with that objective partly in mind I have twice been a representative from the American Association for the United Nations to the World Federation of UNAs. What is more, I have seen resolutions which I worked for and helped frame passed at the WTUNA session and later adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the UN. It is therefore possible for you and me, as individuals, to influence the direction in which the UN moves.

At the last session of WTUNA, among the attending associations were those of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Roumania. All represented the people of their countries in their aspirations for the UN, just as did we of the Western associations. Some of these Central Europeans were antagonistic, quarrelsome, and disagreeable in the beginning, but before the five days of sessions were over an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect, if not always of friendliness had been established, and the various commissions, educational, social, and even political, had made their reports, voted on democratically, to the plenary session, and there all recommendations were adopted unanimously. I submit, therefore, that it is possible to work with communists, that I am convinced that I have lost nothing by doing so, and that, on the contrary, I have contributed in my very small individual way toward a better international atmosphere in which it may be possible for people to breathe and not burn.

At the projected Conference for World Peace I expect to plug away along the same lines, getting in my word wherever possible for the evolution of the UN into a World Government, and I am willing to bet that when you get Linus' reply you will find that he and I (you, too, for that matter) are really not very far apart.

Sincerely yours,

MH:ja

Michael Heidelberger

Copy to
Dr. Linus Pauling